

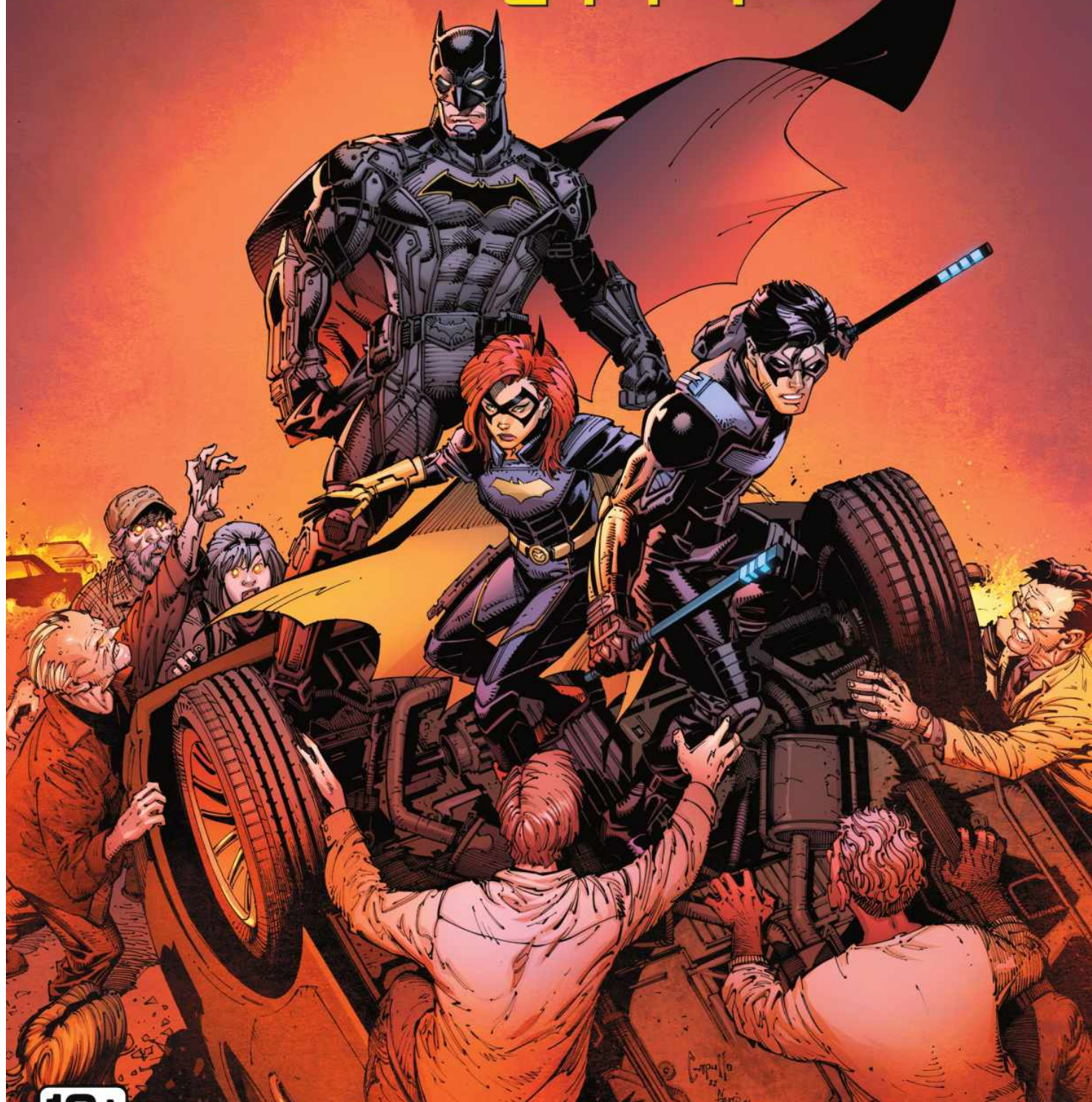


4 of 6



NARCISSE
ABEL
JOHN

BATMAN: GOTHAM KNIGHTS GILDED CITY



CELEBRATE BLACK EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE DC UNIVERSE!



POWER

A CELEBRATION

**A 100-PAGE
ONE-SHOT**
OF ALL-NEW STORIES
FROM COMICS' TOP
ARTISTS AND WRITERS



WRITTEN BY

**CHUCK BROWN, MORGAN HAMPTON,
STEPHANIE WILLIAMS, EVAN NARCISSE,
BRANDON THOMAS, LAMONT MAGEE,
JORDAN CLARK, AND MORE**

ART BY

**VALENTINE DE LANDRO, CLAYTON HENRY,
PETTERSON OLIVEIRA, NATACHA BUSTOS,
CHRIS CROSS, ALITHA MARTINEZ,
DARRYL BANKS, AND MORE**

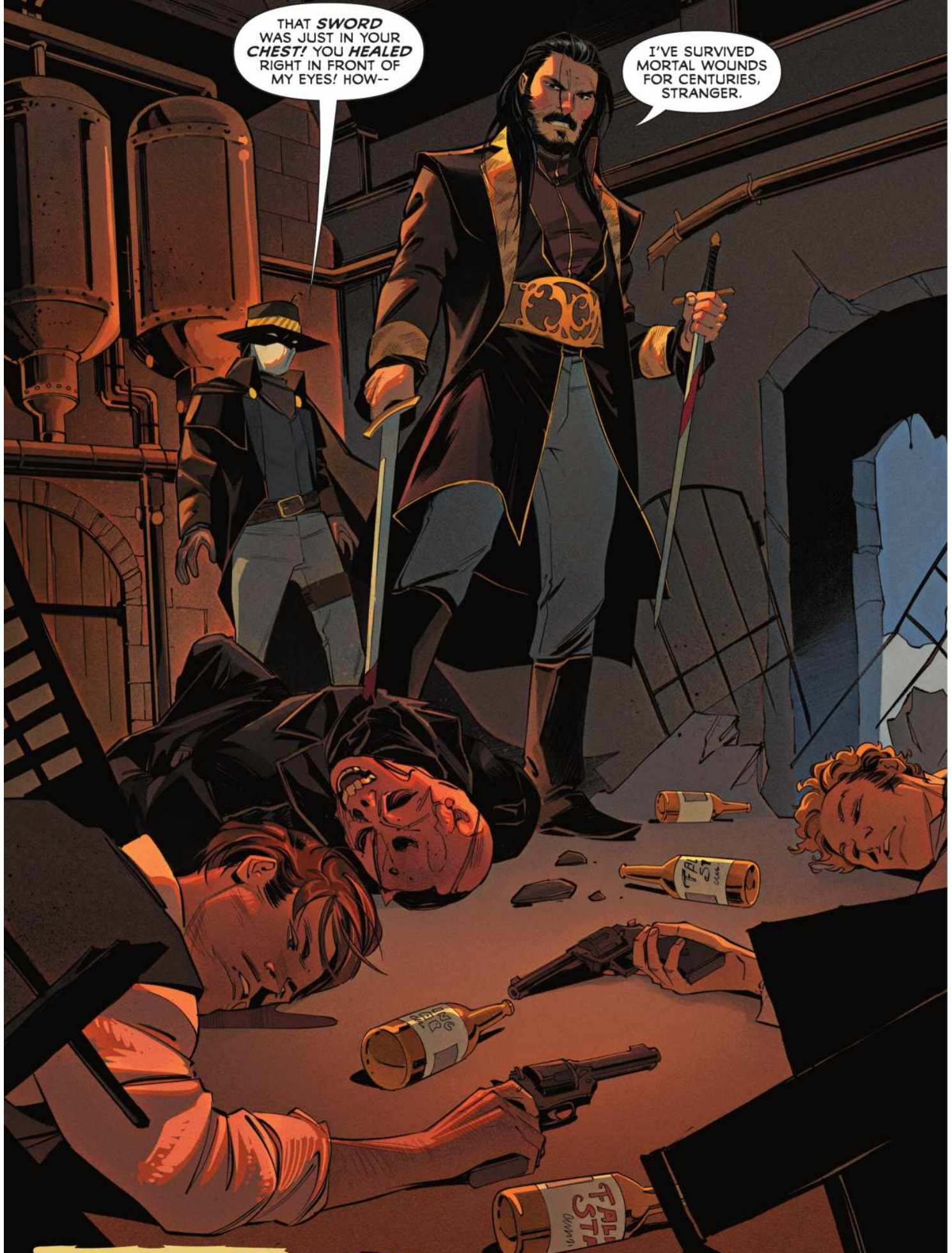


IN PLAIN SIGHT

EVAN NARCISSE writer ABEL artist JOHN colorist STEVE WANDS letterer
GREG CAPULLO, JONATHAN GLAPION & DAVE McCAIG cover
KEYLA VALERIO variant cover BEN MEARES associate editor KATIE KUBERT editor
Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger

THAT *SWORD*
WAS JUST IN YOUR
CHEST! YOU *HEALED*
RIGHT IN FRONT OF
MY EYES! HOW--

I'VE SURVIVED
MORTAL WOUNDS
FOR CENTURIES,
STRANGER.





"I WAS BORN EONS
AGO, LONG BEFORE THIS
CITY WAS BUILT. BEFORE
ANY CITY WAS BUILT.



"I HUNTED AND
KILLED LIKE OTHER
MEN, FEARING THE
FANGS AND CLAWS
OF WILD BEASTS--



"--FEARING
DEATH--



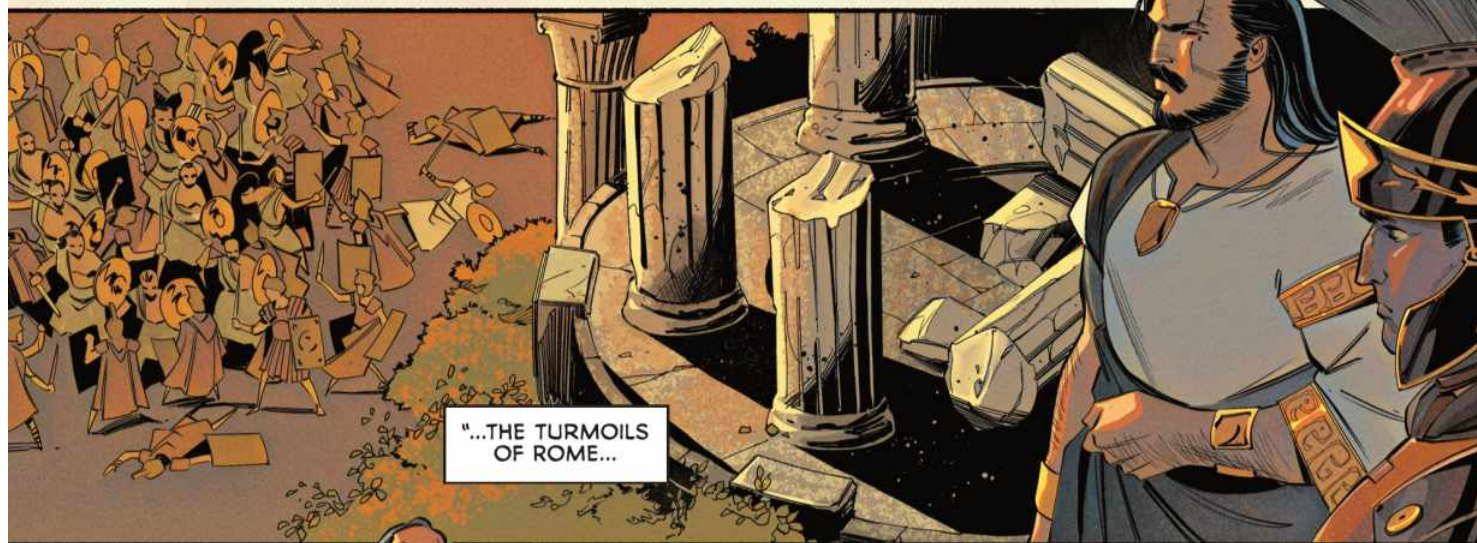
"--UNTIL, ONE DAY, THE STRANGE
GLOW OF A ROCK FROM THE
SKY FREED ME FROM DEATH.



"I'VE CARRIED A PIECE
OF THAT SAME ROCK
FOR CENTURIES..."



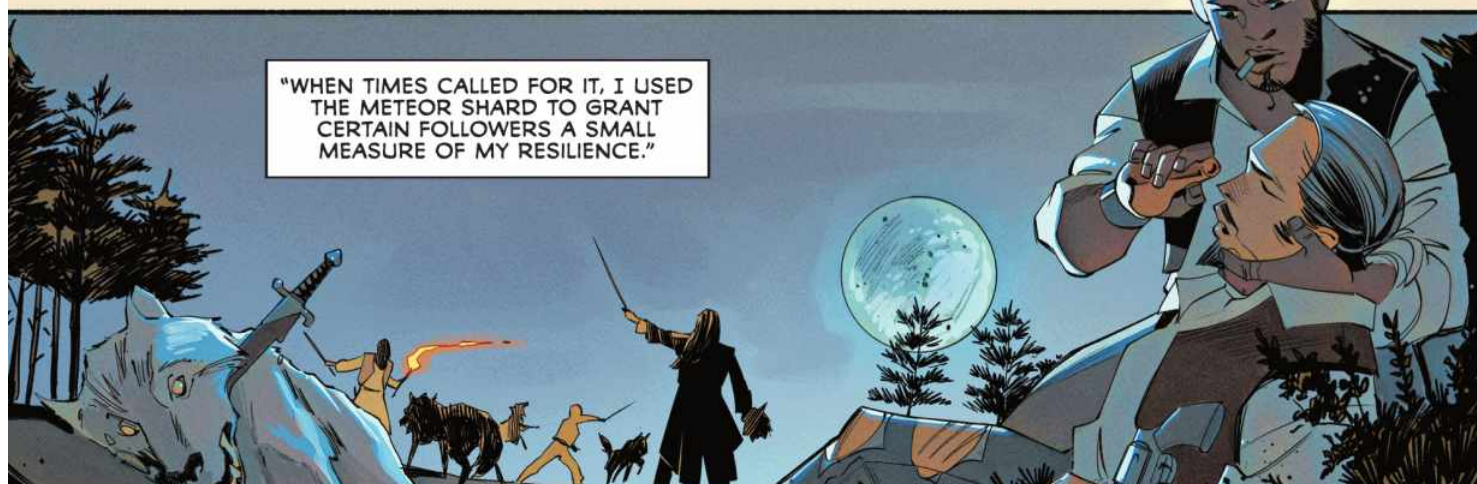
"...THROUGH THE GLORIES
OF ASANTE, DAHOMEY,
AND YORUBA LANDS..."



"...THE TURMOILS
OF ROME..."



"...AND ACROSS
EVERY SEA ON
THE PLANET."



"WHEN TIMES CALLED FOR IT, I USED
THE METEOR SHARD TO GRANT
CERTAIN FOLLOWERS A SMALL
MEASURE OF MY RESILIENCE."



"BUT, THE SHARD WAS STOLEN FROM ME YEARS AGO, WHILE I WAS BROUGHT LOW FROM GRIEVOUS INJURIES.



"I FOUND THE THIEF AND PAID HIM FOR HIS INSOLENCE. BUT I WAS TOO LATE. HE'D SOLD THE SHARD.



"I'VE BEEN CHASING IT ALL AROUND THE GLOBE EVER SINCE.



MY PURSUIT LED ME *HERE*, TO YET ANOTHER LAIR WHERE MEN SCHEME FOR POWER IN THE SHADOWS.



YOU KNOW MY NAME. YOU'VE HEARD MY STORY. WHAT IS YOURS?

THE ONLY NAME YOU NEED IS *THE RUNAWAY*.

AND WHAT IS IT YOU RUN AWAY FROM?

BONDAGE. CRUELTY. INJUSTICE. I TRY TO HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME AND FIND THEIR OWN FREEDOM.



THE ONLY TRUE
FREEDOM IS FOUND
IN POWER, AND
THUS I TAKE WHAT
I NEED.

AND
WHAT OF THE
POWERLESS
AND THEIR
NEEDS?

YOUR MASK
CANNOT HIDE THE
TRUE QUESTIONS
IN YOUR VOICE,
RUNAWAY.

I'LL ASK
YOU PLAIN, THEN,
MR. **SAVAGE**:
HAVE YOU BOUGHT
AND SOLD MY
PEOPLE IN YOUR
JOURNEYS?

HAHAHA! AND
I WILL ANSWER YOU
PLAIN: I'VE BOUGHT
AND SOLD EVERY KIND
OF PERSON, LITTLE ONE.
I'VE ALSO FREED THEM,
AS IT'S SUITED
ME.



MY AIM IS TO RULE. THE HEAVENS
ANOINTED ME TO DO SO. THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS MODE
OF SLAVERY AND THE OTHERS I
HAVE SEEN IS ITS RIDICULOUS
PRETEXTS.

SO WHAT
SEPARATES YOU
FROM THE MEN
WE FOUGHT
TONIGHT?

BAH, THIS COURT
OF OWLS SKULKS IN
DARKNESS. I PREFER TO
CAMPAIGN IN THE OPEN,
WHERE ALL CAN SEE
MY GLORY.



YOU WOULD
KILL ME, RUNAWAY?
HOW, PRAY TELL? EVEN
IF YOU COULD, HOW
WOULD YOU END THE
PRACTICE YOU SO
ABHOR?

HA, YOU SOUND LIKE
SOMEONE IN NEED OF
IMMORTALITY!

MY SKIN TELLS
ME THAT THESE
FOOLISH OWLS ARE
USING MY SHARD
IN THIS CLOYING
BEVERAGE.

KASH

THE ONLY
WAY I CAN.
ONE LIFE AT
A TIME.



THAT MAN
FROM THE COURT
OF OWLS SAID THEY
WANTED TO
CONQUER DEATH. IF
THEY HAVE YOUR
SHARD...

FIGURING
IT OUT, ARE
YOU?

THOSE PEOPLE
BUTCHERED IN
HORRIBLE EXPERIMENTS,
THE STRANGE ILLNESS
AFFLICTING THE CITY'S
WORKERS, THE DEAD
RISING FROM THEIR
GRAVES... THEY'RE
CONNECTED.



INDEED. BUT
THEIR SCHEMES
DO NOT MATTER.
I WILL FIND MY
SHARD...



...EVEN IF
IT MEANS MY
ARMIES BURNING
GOTHAM CITY TO
THE GROUND.



COUNTLESS
PEOPLE WILL DIE
IF YOU BRING WAR TO
GOTHAM! LET ME USE
MY **OTHER FACE**
AND FIND IT FOR
YOU, INSTEAD.



YOUR NAIVETE
AMUSES ME,
RUNAWAY. YOU HAVE
FOUR NIGHTS. THEN,
THIS BLIGHTED CITY
BURNS.

AND, WHO
KNOWS, IF YOU
SUCCEED, I MAY
GRANT YOU SOME
LONGEVITY OF
YOUR OWN.

**GOTHAM.
PRESENT DAY.**

THERE'S A
MASSIVE OUTBREAK
AT THIS CAR
DEALERSHIP,
ALFRED.

AUTO CLUB

HOTEL

THESE PEOPLE
ARE TEARING OUT
SEMICONDUCTOR CHIPS,
SCREENS, TIRES,
CAMERAS...

ANYTHING
THAT COULD
BE RESOLD,
THEN?

YES, BUT
THIS CHAOS IS
THE OPPOSITE
OF ORGANIZED
CRIME.

THE DOCTORS
THOMPKINS INFORMED
BATGIRL THAT THE VIRUS
IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT
AILMENT THAN THE
ALTERED FEAR
TOXIN.

OOOF!

YET THEY INDUCE
SIMILAR BEHAVIORS,
TRAPPING VICTIMS IN
BETWEEN CONSCIOUS
THOUGHT AND
SUPPRESSED
URGES.

CLANK

FSSH

WHOOOM



PHOONT
PHOONT

BATMAN!
WE'VE BEEN TRYING
TO REACH YOU!

THIS SHOULD
TAKE CARE OF
THE CAR
THEFT.

E.M.P. BATARANGS,
ROBIN? SO MUCH FOR, LIKE,
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN
LUXURY AUTOMOBILES.

CITY'S
GOT TOO
MANY CARS
ALREADY.

A WHOLE CITY
BLOCK OF THIS
MADNESS? BY
YOURSELF? I KNOW
YOU'RE THE BOSS
BUT THIS IS WHY
WE'RE A TEAM,
BATMAN.

NOT
JUST A
TEAM...

"...WE'RE A FAMILY."

**BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA**

**SANTA PRISCA.
PRESENT DAY.**

THAT'S RIGHT,
GUYS. EMPTY
THOSE CLIPS.

CLICK

CLICK
CLICK

SEE, FOLKS,
THAT'S WHY YOU
GOTTA STAGGER THE
VOLLEYS. DIDN'T THEY
COVER THAT IN
TRAINING?!

THE BIALYA
FACILITY REPORTED
A SECURITY BREACH.
CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN
HERE, TOO!

GOTTA
FIND THIS
GUY! SPREAD
OUT!

HE
MIGHT BE
WORKING
WITH
OTHERS!

NOPE, JUST
ME HERE BY MY
LONESOME.





OK, LUCIUS.
HERE'S ANOTHER
UPDATE. HOPE YOUR
FANCY FOXTECA
SATELLITES HAVE
BEEN PICKING ALL
THIS UP.

FIRST
OFF, YOU
CAN TELL
BRUCE--

--AH, HE
DOESN'T
WANNA HEAR
ABOUT ME.

BUT IF HE ASKS,
WHICH HE WON'T, NONE
OF THESE JAMOKES ARE
DEAD. EVEN IF THEY
DESERVE IT.



BEEN LOOKING
INTO THAT PRIVATE
SECURITY FIRM
CYCLICAL CONCERN
EVER SINCE THEY
YOINKED THAT DRONE
SURVEILLANCE CONTRACT
OUT FROM
UNDER HIM.



THEIR SPOT
IN BIALYA HANDLED
DRONE MANUFACTURE
AND DEPLOYMENT.
LOOKED LIKE THEY
WERE UP TO SHADY
DATA ACQUISITION.



BUT A CHUNK
OF THOSE DRONES
GET SENT HERE TO GET
FITTED WITH OTHER
COMPONENTS.



I'M
GOING TO
FIND OUT
WHY.

Gotham, 1847.

ABOLITIONIST
PORTIA DAUPHIN
SPEAKS ON THE
NECESSITY OF ABOLITION
AND
FAIR TREATMENT FOR WORKERS

THE GRANDEES
OF GOTHAM CITY
DO **NOTHING** AS
THE **TENEMENT**
TYPHOID KILLS THEIR
WORKERS BY THE
HUNDREDS!

THE ONLY
THING THEY **VALUE**
IS YOUR **LABOR**! YOU
ARE STILL HELD BY
CHAINS! CHAINS WE
MUST **BREAK**!

YOUR WORDS
ARE MORE FIERY
THAN EVER, MY
LOVE.

STILL, I WISH YOUR SECRET
MEETINGS WOULDN'T KEEP
YOU AWAY SO LONG.

IT'S STILL TOO
DANGEROUS FOR
ABOLITIONISTS TO
MEET OUT IN
THE OPEN.

INDEED. THE
ENEMIES OF FREEDOM
ARE ALWAYS HIDING
AMONGST COMMON
FOLK.

I MUST SAY,
PORTIA, FOR
SOMEONE WHO
HASN'T BEEN IN
GOTHAM LONG,
YOUR WORDS
MANAGED TO
CUT TO THE
BONE.

RICH MEN
ARE THE SAME
IN EVERY ERA,
AREN'T THEY?

KANE,
COBBLEPOT,
ELLIOT, AND
THEIR PEERS ARE
ALL BLEEDING
GOTHAM DRY,
I FEAR.

THEY ALL WANT
THE BLOOD AND
SWEAT OF THE
LESS FORTUNATE,
FOR LITTLE IN
RETURN.

THAT NIGHT...

AAAAHHHH!

MY WORD!
IT'S THAT BRIGAND
FROM THE
POSTERS!

NO NEED FOR
PANIC TONIGHT.
I ONLY NEED A
PEEK INSIDE
THE SAFE.

YOU FOOL!
CAMERON KANE
OWNS THIS PLACE!
HIS SECURITY
AGENTS WILL HAVE
YOUR HEAD!

WILL THEY
NOW? I'M
QUITE FOND
OF IT WHERE
IT IS!

OWWW!

ERRGH!







THE NEXT NIGHT...

ANYONE KNOW WHY THE BOSS HAS THESE KANE GENTS ALL OVER THE PLACE?

NO IDEA, BUT IT CAN'T BE ALL BAD IF A FAT CAT LIKE **EDWARD ELLIOT** IS SPOOKED.

AN EASY NIGHT'S WORK, IF YOU ASK ME. WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO GET INTO THAT OFFICE ANYWAY?

EVEN IF THEY DID, THE OLD MISER CHANGES THE CODE EVERY TIME HIS BANK BALANCE GOES UP.



TIME TO SEE IF THE GOSSIP FROM KANE'S AGENTS HOLDS ANY TRUTH.

AND THERE WE ARE.

VANDAL'S ROCK ISN'T HERE EITHER. BUT THAT'S TOMORROW'S PAPER...



CLICK

...ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO DRINK **FALLING STAR WATER** TO STAVE OFF TENEMENT TYPHOID? WE CAN'T HAVE THAT...



THE NEXT MORNING...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE ARE NO PAPERS TO DELIVER?!

WELL, UH...

"...IT APPEARS THE PRESSES WERE TAMPERED WITH LAST NIGHT, SIR."

\$#!###!%&! GET ME A CARRIAGE AT ONCE!

WAYNE MANOR. LATER...

I SEE YOU'VE GOTTEN NEW HELP, **SOLOMON**.

WE GOT WORD A FEW NIGHTS AGO THAT OUR LANEY HAS FALLEN ILL WITH THIS NEW TYPHOID. SHE SENT ALONG A COUSIN IN HER STEAD.

ENOUGH PLEASANTRIES, **WAYNE**! I'VE CALLED YOU ALL HERE BECAUSE WE'RE ALL BEING TARGETED!

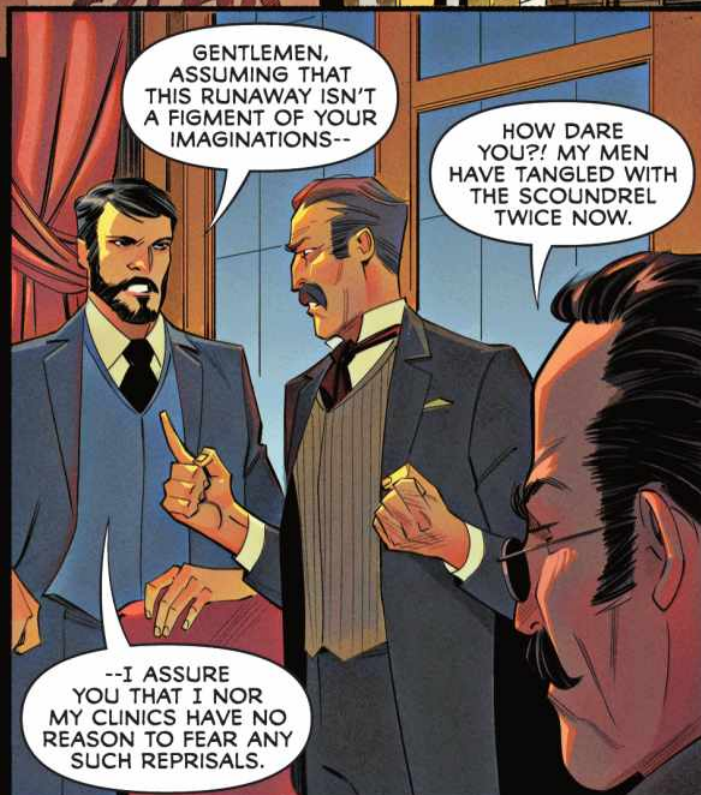
BY WHOM, **EDWARD**? WHAT DO ANY OF US HAVE IN COMMON?

BY THE SAME MASKED MISCREANT THAT TRASHED MY PRESSES AND BURNED DOWN KANE'S CLUB!



"MY BOTTLING OPERATION SUFFERED DAMAGE AT THE HANDS OF THIS RUNAWAY AS WELL!"

"SEE, WAYNE?! HE'LL COME FOR YOU NEXT!"



GENTLEMEN, ASSUMING THAT THIS RUNAWAY ISN'T A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATIONS--

HOW DARE YOU?! MY MEN HAVE TANGLED WITH THE SCOUNDREL TWICE NOW.

--I ASSURE YOU THAT I NOR MY CLINICS HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR ANY SUCH REPRISALS.



BLAST YOU, WAYNE, YOU'D HAVE PROTECTION IF YOU'D JUST THROW IN WITH OUR...NOCTURNAL ORGANIZATION.

I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR SECRET DEALINGS, KANE.



WAAAAAHHHH!

I'LL GO AND CHECK ON LITTLE ALAN, SIR.

ER, THANK YOU...PENNY, WAS IT?

I'LL BE ALONG SHORTLY. THE HOUR IS LATE, GENTLEMEN, AND I HAVE OTHER MATTERS TO TEND TO.



IF YOU SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, SEND WORD TO ONE OF US, WAYNE.



LATER THAT NIGHT...

LISTEN TO ME, YOU FREELANCERS. SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME IS IN THAT EDIFICE. RAZE IT TO THE GROUND AND--

YOUR ROCK ISN'T THERE, MR. SAVAGE.



MY SOURCES SAW NO SIGN OF YOUR SHARD IN SOLOMON WAYNE'S MANOR. THEY ALSO TELL ME THAT HE SPURNS THE COURT OF OWLS.

YOU ALSO WEAR OTHER MASKS, IT SEEMS. REGARDLESS, IF YOUR EXPLOITS CONTINUE TO COME UP EMPTY...



YOU PROMISED ME THREE MORE NIGHTS! DOES VANDAL SAVAGE NOT KEEP HIS WORD?!

I'LL KEEP MY WORD. BUT SHOULD YOU FAIL, I WILL REDUCE GOTHAM TO ASHES.



TIMOTHY, CAMERAS ARE SHOWING A PACKAGE BEING LEFT ON THE MANOR'S FRONT DOORSTEP. SENSORS SHOW NOTHING UNTOWARD ABOUT THE COURIER.

I'LL GO CHECK IT OUT, ALFRED.

THE BATCAVE.
PRESENT DAY.



NO RETURN ADDRESS BUT SCANS ARE ALL COMING UP CLEAN. I'M GOING TO OPEN IT.



WHOA, IT'S A SUPER OLD JOURNAL. TOO BAD RARS ISN'T HERE



THERE'S SOME KIND OF NOTE... NEVER SEEN THAT SYMBOL BEFORE.

NEITHER HAVE I, SIR.



I'M GOING TO DIG INTO THIS BOOK, ALFRED. SEEMS LIKE SOME PAGES WERE TORN OUT, THOUGH.

EVEN SO, A TOME LIKE THAT MAY TAKE SOME TIME, TIM. I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF PREPARING A SNACK.



THANKS, ALFRED. OKAY, LET'S SEE... "MY NAME IS VIVIAN FOXWORTH. I CANNOT EXPLAIN WHY I HAVE LIVED WHEN SO MANY OTHERS HAVE PASSED ON..."



LATER...

WHOA... I GOTTA LET BRUCE KNOW. ARE COMMS STILL DOWN?

MR. FOX SAID HE'S VENTURING OUT TO PHYSICALLY REROUTE THE BACKUP SERVERS.

JEEZ, I HOPE HE'S CAREFUL.

I'M HEADING TO THE OLD COAL MINE OUTSIDE THE CITY. PING ME WHEN COMMS ARE BACK ONLINE.



ALFRED, THIS COULD ALL BE CONNECTED TO SOMETHING BIG. I NEED TO HEAD OUT BUT I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY.

EVEN WITH EVERYTHING THAT WE'VE SEEN IN THIS CITY, THIS IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE.

OKAY, ROBIN, WHAT DO WE KNOW? A GOLDEN IRIS VIRUS IN GOTHAM MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO? A SECRET LAB AT THE OLD COAL MINE?!





FORGING THE FUTURE ONE HERO AT A TIME

A YEARLONG
STORYTELLING
INITIATIVE



NEW EPIC
SERIES

NEW
CREATIVE
TEAMS

NEW
BATTLES
TO FIGHT

ART BY DAN MORA
© & TM DC

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON DAWN OF DC



DC is embarking on a yearlong storytelling event, Dawn of DC. Following the events of *Dark Crisis on Infinite Earths* and *DC Universe: Lazarus Planet*, the world's superheroes have emerged from the biggest, most devastating battles of their lives and are reinvigorated in their fights against evil. With bold new directions for DC's biggest characters, Dawn of DC is an easy entry point for both lifelong readers and those picking up a comic for the first time to dive into the new stories.

"After the near-Multiverse-ending events in *Dark Crisis on Infinite Earths* and *DC Universe: Lazarus Planet*, the DC Universe will be heading toward the light," said DC publisher and chief creative officer Jim Lee. "With brand-new series and story arcs from some of the top creative members in comics, Dawn of DC is one of our most ambitious initiatives ever and is a chance for us to tell bigger and bolder stories across our line."

MORE THAN 20 NEW COMICS SERIES WILL LAUNCH THROUGHOUT 2023—HERE'S A LOOK AT THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR!

JANUARY 2023

Action Comics #1051

FEBRUARY 2023

Superman #1

MARCH 2023

Adventures of Superman: Jon Kent #1

Unstoppable Doom Patrol #1

Harley Quinn #28

APRIL 2023

Green Arrow #1

Superboy: The Man of Tomorrow #1

MAY 2023

Batman: The Brave and the Bold #1

Cyborg #1

Shazam! #1

JUNE 2023

The Penguin #1

Steelworks #1



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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

